Driving the vehicle

The following procedures should be observed to ensure safe driving.

■ Starting the engine (→P. 154)

■ Driving

STEP 1 With the brake pedal depressed, shift the shift lever to "D". (→P. 159)

STEP 2 Release the parking brake. (→P. 164)

STEP 3 Gradually release the brake pedal and gently depress the accelerator pedal to accelerate the vehicle.

■ Stopping

STEP 1 With the shift lever in "D", depress the brake pedal.

STEP 2 If necessary, set the parking brake.

When the vehicle is stopped for an extended period of time, shift the shift lever to "P" or "N". (→P.159)

■ Parking the vehicle

STEP 1 With the shift lever in "D", depress the brake pedal.

STEP 2 Set the parking brake. (→P.164)

STEP 3 Shift the shift lever to "P". (→P.159)

STEP 4 Press the "ENGINE START STOP" switch and stop the engine.

STEP 5 Lock the door, making sure that you have the electronic key on your person.

Starting on a steep uphill

STEP 1 Set the parking brake and shift the shift lever to "D".

STEP 2 Gently depress the accelerator pedal.

STEP 3 Release the parking brake.

n **Starting off on a hill**

Hill-start assist control will operate. (→P. 217)

n **Driving in the rain**

l Drive carefully when it is raining, because visibility will be reduced, the windows may become fogged-up, and the road will be slippery.

l Drive carefully when it starts to rain, because the road surface will be especially slippery.

l Refrain from high speeds when driving on an expressway in the rain, because there may be a layer of water between the tires and the road surface, preventing the steering and brakes from operating properly.

n **Breaking in your new Lexus**

To extend the life of the vehicle, the following precautions are recommended to observe:

l For the first 186 miles (300 km):
Avoid sudden stops.

l For the first 621 miles (1000 km):

- Do not drive at extremely high speeds.
- Avoid sudden acceleration.
- Do not drive continuously in the low range in the “S” position.
- Do not drive at a constant speed for extended periods.

n **Drum-in-disc type parking brake system**

Your vehicle has a drum-in-disc type parking brake system. This type of brake system needs bedding-down of the brake shoes periodically or whenever the parking brake shoes and/or drum are replaced. Have your Lexus dealer perform the bedding down.

n **Operating your vehicle in a foreign country**

Comply with the relevant vehicle registration laws and confirm the availability of the correct fuel. (→P. 669)

CAUTION

When starting the vehicle

Always keep your foot on the brake pedal while stopped with the engine running. This prevents the vehicle from creeping.

When driving the vehicle

- Do not drive if you are unfamiliar with the location of the brake and accelerator pedals to avoid depressing the wrong pedal.
  - Accidentally depressing the accelerator pedal instead of the brake pedal will result in sudden acceleration that may lead to an accident that could result in death or serious injury.
  - When backing up, you may twist your body around, leading to a difficulty in operating the pedals. Make sure to operate the pedals properly.
  - Make sure to keep a correct driving posture even when moving the vehicle only slightly, allowing you to depress the brake and accelerator pedals properly.
  - Depress the brake pedal using your right foot. Depressing the brake pedal using your left foot may delay response in an emergency, resulting in an accident.
- Do not drive the vehicle over or stop the vehicle near flammable materials.
- Do not let the vehicle roll backwards while the shift lever is in a driving position, or roll forward while the shift lever is in “R”.
  Doing so may result in an accident or damage to the vehicle.
- If the smell of exhaust is noticed inside the vehicle, open the windows and check that the trunk is closed. Large amounts of exhaust in the vehicle can cause driver drowsiness and an accident, resulting in death or a serious health hazard. Have the vehicle inspected by your Lexus dealer immediately.
- Do not under any circumstances shift the shift lever to “P” or “R” while the vehicle is moving.
  Doing so can cause significant damage to the transmission system and may result in a loss of vehicle control.
- Do not shift the shift lever to “N” while the vehicle is moving.
  Doing so may cause insufficient engine braking and lead to an accident.
- Do not turn the engine off while driving.
  The power steering system will not operate properly if the engine is not running.

CAUTION

- Use engine braking (downshift) to maintain a safe speed when driving down a steep hill.
  Using the brakes continuously may cause the brakes to overheat and lose effectiveness. (→P. 160)
- When stopped on an inclined surface, use the brake pedal and parking brake to prevent the vehicle from rolling backward or forward and causing an accident.
- Do not adjust the position of the steering wheel, the seat, or the inside or outside rear view mirrors while driving.
  Doing so may result in a loss of vehicle control that can cause accidents that may result in death or serious injury.
- Always check that all passengers' arms, heads or other parts of their body are not outside the vehicle, as this may result in death or serious injury.
- Do not drive the vehicle off-road.
  This is not a AWD vehicle designed for real off-road driving. Proceed with all due caution if it becomes unavoidable to drive off-road.
- Do not drive across river crossings or through other bodies of water.
  This may cause electric/electronic components to short circuit, damage the engine or cause other serious damage to the vehicle.
- Do not drive in excess of the speed limit. Even if the legal speed limit permits it, do not drive over 85 mph (140 km/h) unless your vehicle has high-speed capability tires. Driving over 85 mph (140 km/h) may result in tire failure, loss of control and possible injury. Be sure to consult a tire dealer to determine whether the tires on your vehicle are high-speed capability tires or not before driving at such speeds.

When driving on slippery road surfaces

- Sudden braking, acceleration and steering may cause tire slippage and reduce your ability to control the vehicle, resulting in an accident.
- Sudden changes in engine speed, such as engine braking caused by up-shifting or down-shifting, may cause the vehicle to skid, resulting in an accident.
- After driving through a puddle, lightly depress the brake pedal to make sure that the brakes are functioning properly. Wet brake pads may prevent the brakes from functioning properly. If the brakes on only one side are wet and not functioning properly, steering control may be affected, resulting in an accident.

CAUTION

■ **When shifting the shift lever**

Be careful not to shift the shift lever with the accelerator pedal depressed.
This may lead to unexpected rapid acceleration of the vehicle that may cause an accident and result in death or serious injury.

■ **When the vehicle is stopped**

- Do not race the engine.
  If the vehicle is in any gear other than “P” or “N”, the vehicle may accelerate suddenly and unexpectedly, and may cause an accident.
- Do not leave the vehicle with the engine running for a long time.
  If such a situation cannot be avoided, park the vehicle in an open space and check that exhaust fumes do not enter the vehicle interior.
- Always keep a foot on the brake pedal while the engine is running to prevent an accident caused by the vehicle moving.

■ **When the vehicle is parked**

- Do not leave glasses, cigarette lighters, spray cans, or soft drink cans in the vehicle when it is in the sun.
  Doing so may result in the following:
  - Gas may leak from a cigarette lighter or spray can, and may lead to a fire.
  - The temperature inside the vehicle may cause the plastic lenses and plastic material of eye glasses to deform or crack.
  - Soft drink cans may fracture, causing the contents to spray over the interior of the vehicle, and may also cause a short circuit in the vehicle's electrical components.
- Always apply the parking brake, shift the shift lever to “P”, stop the engine and lock the vehicle.
  Do not leave the vehicle unattended while the engine is running.
- Do not touch the exhaust pipes and the rear bumper diffusers while the engine is running or immediately after turning the engine off.
  Doing so may cause burns.
- Do not leave the engine running in an area with snow build-up, or where it is snowing. If snowbanks build up around the vehicle while the engine is running, exhaust gases may collect and enter the vehicle. This may lead to death or a serious health hazard.

CAUTION

- **Exhaust gases**

Exhaust gases include harmful carbon monoxide (CO) that is colorless and odorless. Inhaling exhaust gases may lead to death or a serious health hazard.

- If the vehicle is in a poorly ventilated area, stop the engine. In a closed area, such as a garage, exhaust gases may collect and enter the vehicle. This may lead to death or a serious health hazard.
- The exhaust should be checked occasionally. If there is a hole or crack caused by corrosion, damage to a joint or abnormal exhaust noise, be sure to have the vehicle inspected and repaired by your Lexus dealer. Failure to do so may allow exhaust gases to enter the vehicle, resulting in death or a serious health hazard.

- **When taking a nap in the vehicle**

Always turn the engine off. Otherwise, you may accidentally move the shift lever or depress the accelerator pedal, which could cause an accident or fire due to engine overheating. Additionally, if the vehicle is parked in a poorly ventilated area, exhaust gases may collect and enter the vehicle, leading to death or a serious health hazard.

- **When braking the vehicle**

- When the brakes are wet, drive more cautiously.
  Braking distance increases when the brakes are wet, and may cause one side of the vehicle to brake differently than the other side. Also the parking brake may not securely hold the vehicle.
- If the electronically controlled brake system does not operate, do not follow other vehicles closely and avoid downhills or sharp turns that require braking.
  In this case, even though the brakes still operate, the brake pedal should be depressed more firmly than usual. Braking distance also becomes longer.
- The brake system consists of 3 individual hydraulic systems: if one of the systems fails, the others will still operate. In this case, the brake pedal should be depressed more firmly than usual and braking distance becomes longer. If this happens, do not continue to drive the vehicle. If the brake system warning light (red indicator) comes on together with buzzer sound while driving, immediately stop the vehicle in a safe place and contact your Lexus dealer.

- **If the vehicle becomes stuck or bogged (AWD models)**

Do not spin the wheels recklessly when any of the tires is up in the air, or stuck in sand or mud, etc. This may damage the drive system components or propel the vehicle forward (or in another direction) and cause an accident.

NOTICE

- **When driving the vehicle**

  Do not use the accelerator pedal or depress the accelerator and brake pedals at the same time to hold the vehicle on a hill.

- **When parking the vehicle**

  Always put the shift lever in “P”. Failure to do so may cause the vehicle to move or the vehicle may accelerate suddenly if the accelerator pedal is accidentally depressed.

- **Avoiding damage to vehicle parts**

  - Do not turn the steering wheel fully in either direction and hold it there for a long time.
    Doing so may damage the power steering motor.
  - When driving over bumps in the road, drive as slowly as possible to avoid damaging the wheels, underside of the vehicle, etc.

- **If a brake pad wear warning message is displayed**

  Have your Lexus dealer check and replace the brake pads as soon as possible.
  The rotor damage can result if the pads are not replaced when needed.

  Moderate levels of the brake pad and disc wear allow enhanced front braking power. As a result, the discs may wear more quickly than conventional brake discs. Therefore, when replacing the brake pads, Lexus recommends that you also have the thickness of the discs measured.
  It is dangerous to drive the vehicle when the wear limits of the brake pads and/or that of the brake discs are exceeded.

- **If you get a flat tire while driving**

  A flat or damaged tire may cause the following situations. Hold the steering wheel firmly and gradually depress the brake pedal to slow down the vehicle.

  - It may be difficult to control your vehicle.
  - The vehicle will make abnormal sounds.
  - The vehicle will behave abnormally.

  Information on what to do in case of a flat tire. (→P. 639)

NOTICE

When encountering flooded roads

Do not drive on a road that has flooded after heavy rain etc. Doing so may cause the following serious damage to the vehicle:

- Engine stalling
- Short in electrical components
- Engine damage caused by water immersion

In the event that you drive on a flooded road and the vehicle is flooded, be sure to have your Lexus dealer check the following:

- Brake function
- Changes in quantity and quality of oil and fluid used for the engine, transmission, differential, etc.
- Lubricant condition for the propeller shaft, bearings and suspension joints (where possible) and the function of all joints, bearings, etc.

Engine (ignition) switch

Performing the following operations when carrying the electronic key on your person starts the engine or changes "ENGINE START STOP" switch modes.

n Starting the engine

STEP 1 Check that the parking brake is set.

STEP 2 Check that the shift lever is set in "P".

STEP 3 Sit in the driver's seat and firmly depress the brake pedal.

The "ENGINE START STOP" switch indicator turns green.

STEP 4 Press the "ENGINE START STOP" switch.

The engine can be started from any mode.

■ Changing "ENGINE START STOP" switch mode

Modes can be changed by pressing the "ENGINE START STOP" switch with the brake pedal released. (The mode changes each time the switch is pressed.)

1 OFF*

Emergency flashers can be used.

2 ACCESSORY mode

Some electrical components such as the audio system can be used.

The "ENGINE START STOP" switch indicator turns amber.

3 IGNITION ON mode

All electrical components can be used.

The "ENGINE START STOP" switch indicator turns amber.

*: If the shift lever is in a position other than "P" when turning off the engine, the "ENGINE START STOP" switch will be turned to ACCESSORY mode, not to OFF.

■ If the engine does not start

The engine immobilizer system may not have been deactivated. (→P. 103)

When the steering lock cannot be released

The green indicator light on the "ENGINE START STOP" switch will flash and a message will be shown on the multi-information display. Press the "ENGINE START STOP" switch again while turning the steering wheel left and right.

When the "ENGINE START STOP" switch indicator flashes in amber

The system may be malfunctioning. Have the vehicle inspected by your Lexus dealer immediately.

Auto power off function

If the vehicle is left in ACCESSORY mode for more than an hour with the shift lever in "P", the "ENGINE START STOP" switch will automatically turn OFF.

Electronic key battery depletion

→P. 39

When the electronic key battery is discharged

→P. 582

Conditions affecting operation

→P. 37

Note for the entry function

→P. 40

CAUTION

- **When starting the engine**

Always start the engine while sitting in the driver's seat. Do not depress the accelerator pedal while starting the engine under any circumstances.
Doing so may cause an accident resulting in death or serious injury.

- **Stopping the engine in an emergency**

If you want to stop the engine in an emergency while driving the vehicle, push and hold the "ENGINE START STOP" switch for more than 3 seconds.
However, do not touch the "ENGINE START STOP" switch while driving except in an emergency. If the engine stops while the vehicle is being driven, this could lead to an unexpected accident.

NOTICE

- **To prevent the battery from being discharged**

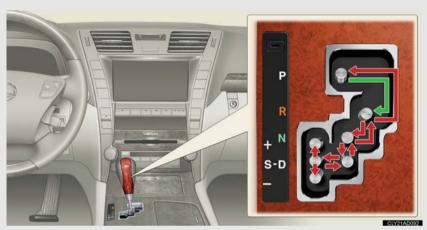
Do not leave the "ENGINE START STOP" switch in ACCESSORY or IGNITION ON mode for long periods of time without the engine running.

- **When starting the engine**

  - Do not race a cold engine.
  - If the engine becomes difficult to start or stalls frequently, have the engine checked immediately by your Lexus dealer.

Automatic Transmission

Select a shift position appropriate for the driving conditions.

Shifting the shift lever

While the "ENGINE START STOP" switch is in IGNITION ON mode, depress the brake pedal and move the shift lever.

Shift position uses

Shift position	Function
P	Parking the vehicle or starting the engine
R	Reversing
N	Neutral
D	Normal driving*1
S	"S" mode driving*2 (→P. 160)

*1: To improve fuel consumption and reduce noises, set the shift lever in the "D" position for normal driving.

*2: Selecting shift ranges using "S" mode restricts the upper limit of the possible gear ranges, controls engine braking forces, and prevents unnecessary upshifting.

Selecting a driving mode

The following patterns can be selected to suit current driving and operating conditions.

1. Power mode
   For powerful acceleration and driving in mountainous regions
2. Normal mode
3. Snow mode
   For accelerating and driving on slippery road surfaces, such as on snow

   Press "SNOW" to return to normal mode.

Changing shift ranges in "S" mode

Shift the shift lever to the "S" position and operate the shift lever.

1. Upshifting
2. Downshifting

The initial shift range in "S" mode is automatically set to "4", "5", "6" or "7" according to vehicle speed. However, the initial shift range may be set to "2" or "3" if the AI-SHIFT has operated while the shift lever was in the "D" position. (→P. 162)

■ Shift ranges and their functions

Shift range	Function
8	Automatically selecting gears between “1” and “8” according to vehicle speed and driving conditions
7	Automatically selecting gears between “1” and “7” according to vehicle speed and driving conditions
6	Automatically selecting gears between “1” and “6” according to vehicle speed and driving conditions
5	Automatically selecting gears between “1” and “5” according to vehicle speed and driving conditions
4	Automatically selecting gears between “1” and “4” according to vehicle speed and driving conditions
3	Automatically selecting gears between “1” and “3” according to vehicle speed and driving conditions
2	Automatically selecting gears between “1” and “2” according to vehicle speed and driving conditions
1	Setting the gear at “1”

A lower shift range will provide greater engine braking forces than a higher shift range.

n “S” mode

- l When the shift range is “6” or lower, holding the shift lever toward “+” sets the shift range to “8.”
- l When the shift range is “6” or higher, moving the shift lever toward “-” may change down by 2 shift ranges or more depending on driving conditions.
- l To prevent the engine from over-revving, upshifting may automatically occur.

n Downshifting restrictions warning buzzer (in the “S” mode)

To help ensure safety and driving performance, downshifting operation may sometimes be restricted. In some circumstances, downshifting may not be possible even when the shift lever is operated. (The warning buzzer will sound twice.)

n When driving with the cruise control system

Engine brake will not operate in the “S” mode, even when downshifting to “7”, “6”, “5” or “4”. (→P. 190, 193)

n Snow mode automatic deactivation

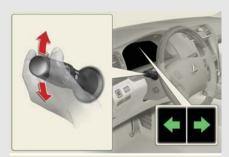
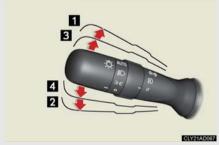
Snow mode is automatically deactivated if the “ENGINE START STOP” switch is turned OFF after driving in snow mode.

n If the shift lever cannot be shifted from “P”

→P. 649

n AI-SHIFT

The AI-SHIFT automatically shifts the gear to the optimal position according to the driver performance and driving conditions.
The AI-SHIFT automatically operates when the shift lever is in the “D” and “S”position.

Turn signal lever

1 Right turn

2 Left turn

3 Move and hold the lever part-way to signal a lane change.

The right hand signal will flash until you release the lever.

4 Move and hold the lever part-way to signal a lane change.

The left hand signal will flash until you release the lever.

- **Turn signals can be operated when**

  The "ENGINE START STOP" switch is in IGNITION ON mode.

- **If the indicators flash faster than usual**

  Check that a light bulb in the front or rear turn signal lights has not burned out.

Parking brake

For the parking brake, an electrical parking brake system is adopted.

■ Manual mode

1. Sets the parking brake

   If the parking brake switch is operated when the “ENGINE START STOP” switch is not in IGNITION ON mode, the parking brake indicator light will come on and stay on for a while.

   Press and hold the parking brake switch if an emergency occurs and it is necessary to operate the parking brake while driving.

2. Releases the parking brake

   Operate the parking brake switch while depressing the brake pedal. Make sure that the parking brake indicator light goes off.

n Automatic mode

On/off

The parking brake is set automatically according to shift lever operation.

Operate the shift lever with the brake pedal depressed.

l When the shift lever is moved out of "P"
The parking brake will be released.

l When the shift lever is moved into "P"
The parking brake will be set.

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n Parking brake operation

l When the "ENGINE START STOP" switch is not in IGNITION ON mode, the parking brake cannot be released using the parking brake switch.

l When the "ENGINE START STOP" switch is not in IGNITION ON mode, automatic mode (automatic brake setting and releasing) is not available.

l If the parking brake is operated repeatedly over a short period of time, the system may restrict operation to prevent overheating. If this happens, refrain from operating the parking brake. Normal operation will return after about 1 minute.

n Parking brake indicator light

When the "ENGINE START STOP" switch is turned OFF with the parking brake set, the parking brake indicator light will stay on for about 15 seconds. This does not indicate a malfunction.

n Parking brake operation sound

When the parking brake operates, a motor sound (whirring sound) may be heard. This does not indicate a malfunction.

- **When there is a malfunction in the system**

  Warning lights and/or warning messages will turn on or flash. (→P. 627, 636) Depending on the condition, the parking brake indicator light may flash.

- **When parking the vehicle**

  Before you leave the vehicle, set the parking brake, shift the shift lever to "P" and make sure that the vehicle does not move.

- **When the system malfunctions**

  Stop the vehicle in a safe place and check the warning messages.

- **When the parking brake cannot be released due to a malfunction**

  Use the parking brake release tool to manually release the parking brake. (→P. 650)
  Driving the vehicle with the parking brake set will lead to brake components over-heating, which may affect braking performance and increase brake wear.

Brake Hold

The brake hold system keeps the brake applied when the shift lever is in "D", "S" or "N" with the system on and the brake pedal has been depressed to stop the vehicle. The system releases the brake when the accelerator pedal is depressed with the shift lever in "D" or "S" to allow smooth start off.

Turns the brake hold system on.

The brake hold standby indicator comes on. While the system is holding the brake, the brake hold operated indicator light comes on.

■ Brake hold system operating conditions

The brake hold system cannot be turned on in the following conditions:

- The trunk or hood is not closed.
- The driver's door is not closed.
- The driver is not wearing the seat belt.

If any of the conditions above are detected when the brake hold system is enabled, the system will turn off and the brake hold operated indicator light will go off. In addition, if any of the conditions are detected while the system is holding the brake, a warning buzzer will sound and a message will be shown on the multi-information display. The parking brake will then be set automatically.

Brake hold function

- If the brake pedal is left released for a period of about 3 minutes after the system has started holding the brake, the parking brake will be set automatically. In this case, a warning buzzer sounds and a message is shown on the multi-information display.
- To turn the system off while the system is holding the brake, firmly depress the brake pedal and press the button again.
- The brake hold function may not hold the vehicle when the vehicle is on a steep incline. In this situation, it may be necessary for the driver to apply the brakes. The multi-information display will inform the driver of this situation.

When the parking brake is set automatically while the system is holding the brakes

The parking brake will not be released automatically. Release the parking brake by operating the parking brake switch, making sure that the parking brake indicator light goes off. (→P. 164)

When there is a malfunction in the system

Warning lights and/or warning messages will turn on or flash. (→P. 627, 636)

CAUTION

When stopped on a slippery road

The system cannot stop the vehicle when the gripping ability of the tires has been exceeded. Do not use the system when stopped on a slippery road.

NOTICE

When parking the vehicle

The brake hold system is not designed for use when parking the vehicle for a long period of time. Turning the “ENGINE START STOP” switch OFF while the system is holding the brake may release the brake, which would cause the vehicle to move. When operating the “ENGINE START STOP” switch, depress the brake pedal, set the parking brake and shift the shift lever to “P”.

Horn

To sound the horn, press on or close to the mark.